

# July | 2025

*Welcome to Makuru - Season of fertility.*

**A message from our  
Shire President and  
CEO**

**Land Development**

**News from Canberra**

**NAIDOC Week activities**

*this month...*



*Councillor Miniter with the Governor General at the ALGA NGA*

Full issue can be found on our website [www.gnowangerup.wa.gov.au](http://www.gnowangerup.wa.gov.au)

→ Council

→ News and Information

→ Gnowangerup Shire Newsletter



**SHIRE OF GNOWANGERUP**  
BORDEN GNOWANGERUP ONGERUP



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### Shire President – Kate O’Keeffe Monthly Message



The month of June has been both challenging and exciting for Council, as we continue working hard to deliver outcomes that support our community now and into the future.

Council has commenced deliberations on the 2025–2026 Budget, with staff beginning to present draft proposals. These discussions mark an important time for decision-making, as we determine which priorities will be met in the coming financial year. This also includes the assessment of community grant applications—a process we value immensely, as it allows Council to support the important local projects and initiatives that contribute to the heart and soul of our region.

Earlier this month, our CEO and I travelled to Katanning for a regional Zone meeting, where we were joined by a representative from the Federal Government to discuss the phase-out of live sheep exports by sea. As a region, there was shared concern and disappointment around the limited scale of the community funding package offered to support this significant transition. The impacts of this change will be far-reaching, and we will continue to advocate for greater support for our agricultural communities.

Later in the month, the CEO and I, along with the Shire President and CEO of Lake Grace and Caroline Robinson from 150Square, travelled to Canberra for the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly. We proudly represented the newly formed National Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance—an initiative driven by the pressing need to address rural health inequity.

We are pleased to share that our alliance’s motion to increase the Financial Assistance Grants for very remote and remote local governments from \$100,000 to \$500,000 was passed unanimously. This motion specifically supports those local governments who have stepped into the space of funding General Practitioner services—a role traditionally outside our remit but one many of us have had to adopt out of necessity. As you may know, the Shire of Gnowangerup is currently allocating almost 8% of its gross rateable income toward the provision of a local GP. Collectively, the six Shires in our alliance are spending close to \$1.5 million annually on GP services—excluding the additional in-kind and operational support.

This is a strong step forward, and we are incredibly proud of the national support this issue received. While in Canberra, we also held constructive meetings with several key medical bodies, including the Australian Medical Association (AMA), as we continue to press the case for a more sustainable and federally supported model for rural healthcare.

Also attending the ALGA Conference on behalf of our Shire were Cr O’Meehan, Cr Callaghan and Cr Minitier. They made excellent use of the program, engaging in sessions on renewable energy, funding opportunities, and exploring the potential for an Indigenous Liaison Officer role within our organisation.

On a local note, we were delighted to hear of the widespread rain received across the region while we were away. Let’s hope July brings more rainfall to support our farmers and help replenish our dams.



# Gnowangerup Shire News

July 2025



## Shire President - Kate O'Keeffe - continued.



Excitement is also building for the Wild Gravel Cycle & Run, with nominations now open and an enthusiastic response already received. Thank you to everyone who attended the recent community briefing session, and to those who have generously offered to sponsor or volunteer for the event. It's heartening to see our community coming together to make this event a success. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our stunning landscapes and establish ourselves on the national gravel cycling and trail running circuit.

As always, I welcome any opportunity to hear directly from our community. If you have any suggestions, feedback or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Warm regards,  
Kate O'Keeffe JP  
Shire President



## REGISTRATIONS OPEN

[wildgravel.com.au](https://wildgravel.com.au)



### RIDE

12|30|60|100|150

### RUN

5|12|21|42

### RUN+RIDE

5+12|12+30|21+60

### WALK

5|12



### Update from the Chief Executive Officer – David Nicholson



#### CEO Performance Criteria (Key Performance Indicators)

Under the Local Government Act 1995 the CEO of a local government is required to have performance criteria that are in addition to contractual performance criteria. Performance criteria (you may know these as KPI's) are used to track the results of a CEO. They must be mutually agreed between the CEO and Council.

In essence the KPIs are designed to ensure the community's priorities are delivered, these priorities being detailed in the Shire's Integrated Strategic Plan. You can find this plan on the Shire's web site [public-council-agenda-25-august-21.pdf](#).

Progress against these KPIs must be reported to Council at least once per year, but I tend to report more often. In fact, in the past 12 months I've reported progress to Council three times. These reports can be found on the Shire's web site under [Council Meetings » Shire of Gnowangerup](#).

Part of the reason I'm talking about this is because the Shire's new Integrated Strategic Plan (now referred to as a Council Plan) will be going to Council for debate later this month. This plan was developed after considerable community consultation which included four community meetings and the opportunity to complete an on-line survey. It's this report that will be used to develop my KPIs for the forthcoming 12 months.

If you would like to see this report being debated by Council (and hopefully adopted) or indeed the report relating to my KPIs, they will both be on the Council agenda in July. Council meets 3.30pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month and all are welcome.



**Ordinary meeting  
of Council**  
**23 July at 3:30pm**  
**Council Chambers**  
**28 Yougenup rd, Gnowangerup**



The Shire President and Deputy Shire President had a very busy month which included being in Canberra to lobby for additional federal funds. Part of this trip included attending the Australia Local Government Association National General Assembly. These photos were taken at this event.

Michael White, President BHT and Deputy Shire President Rebecca O'Meehan, had their photo taken with Bernard Salt. Bernard Salt is a social commentator, famous for coming up with the term "smashed avocado"



The Deputy Shire President attended a meeting with Great Southern Presidents, Mayors and CEOs at the City of Albany to meet and discuss issues with Auditor General, Caroline Spencer. The OAG is the Auditor for the industry and the opportunity to share concerns was invaluable.



The Deputy President also managed to get a photo with an extremely popular and well know ABC journalist, David Speers. David facilitated a discussion with a number of politicians who answered questions from the audience. Bec was bold enough to invite David to our lovely Shire.



Professor Jenny May is the National Rural Health Commissioner and an important person when it comes to rural health care funding. Along with the Shire President from Lake Grace, Kate had a 45-minute meeting with the Professor where the issue of inequity in health care costs was driven home.

### Update from the Executive Manager of Infrastructure and Assets

#### Gnowangerup Waste Facility Fire and Importance of waste separation

The Gnowangerup main general rubbish cell caught fire on the 20 June 2025 and while it was brought under control relatively quickly, it continued to burn in spots and created quite a bit of smoke. While initially closed and the immediate threat addressed it was reopened for some sections away from the main cell. This allowed disposal for greenwaste, scrap metal and the rubble while the general rubbish area remained closed. Along with the farming community we were expecting mother nature to assist to completely douse the fire but, not enough rain fell in the right spot! We applied about 120,000 litres of water via tankers which helped to cool but not fully extinguish the fire and smoke. More suitable water tankers with cannons and large excavator is being arranged to extinguish the remaining smoking areas and to move the mostly metal material to the rear of the cell. It will be capped and entombed in a metre of clay material and made safe to allow for reopening by the 9 July 2025.

As there is still smoke hanging in and around the site and seeing what has been placed into the general waste cell it is considered hazardous and the tip will remain closed until the works are complete.

The source of the fire is unknown and has caused inconvenience to the public using this facility and highlighted the shire obligations under the Environmental Regulations. Even though the facility is unmanned and access restricted by the swipe card system we rely on the users to do the right thing and dispose in the correct areas. The cell is for general waste and it was clearly observed a large quantity of metal, paint tins, IBC pods and other incorrect waste has been placed in this cell.

The tip is currently open 6 days a week and is closed on Fridays. To help maintain this great tip access we need your help to do the right thing by carrying out the following rules:

- RECYCLE – Place what you can in your yellow lidded kerbside bin;
- RECYCLE – batteries should be recycled and disposed at suitable locations or at the very least taped over the +ve and -ve ends;
- Waste Facility – ONLY – dispose of general waste in the general waste cell;
- FOLLOW and obey the site signage;
- SEPARATE your waste and dispose in the correct locations.


These simple rules will help the shire help you keep the Waste Facility operating for longer into the future and avoid unnecessary closures and your cooperation is appreciated and needed.



## Public Notice GNP Rubbish Tip

### CLOSED

Please monitor the Shire's website and social media  
for updates regarding re opening.





The Shire of Gnowangerup is pleased to announce the commencement of significant land development works that will see the delivery of new residential and industrial land in Cuneo Close and Whitehead Road Gnowangerup. This important project is being delivered with the support of a \$1 million State Government investment through the Regional Development Assistance Program and managed by DevelopmentWA.

The development will provide six residential lots, including one large, grouped housing site, along with six light industrial lots. Civil works have been awarded to Leeuwin Civil Pty Ltd and are scheduled for completion by August 2025, with land releases planned to commence from September.

Once complete, the project will offer:

- Residential lots ranging from 857sqm to 900sqm, providing additional housing options for residents and prospective community members.
- A 5,945sqm grouped housing site, creating opportunities for higher density living and greater housing diversity.
- Light industrial lots ranging from 3,796sqm to 9,898sqm, designed to support businesses that service the region's thriving agricultural sector, including machinery maintenance, logistics, storage and other supporting industries.

This expansion is expected to deliver important economic and social benefits to Gnowangerup. In addition to job creation during the construction phase, the availability of new residential and industrial lots is anticipated to encourage further growth of local businesses, attract new residents, and contribute to the ongoing vitality of the community.

The Regional Development Assistance Program plays a critical role in helping overcome development cost barriers in regional Western Australia, ensuring that communities like Gnowangerup can continue to grow and support the industries that are central to the local and state economy.

Further information about the upcoming land release and to register your interest visit: [developmentwa.com.au/gnowangerup](https://developmentwa.com.au/gnowangerup)

The Shire acknowledges the State Government's support through the Regional Development Assistance Program, and the ongoing partnership with DevelopmentWA in delivering this important project for the Gnowangerup community.

It is expected the land will be available for sale from late July 2025.







SOUTHERN PORTS  
ALBANY BUNBURY ESPERANCE

free event

## GRAVEL CYCLING & RUNNING EVENT

# GNOWANGERUP COMMUNITY GRAVEL

- Gravel Rides 25 or 50km
- Gravel Run 3, 7 or 10km
- Learn to ride gravel
- Food, music & activities



## FRIDAY 10 OCT 2025

[wildgravel.com.au](http://wildgravel.com.au)





# NAIDOC WEEK PROGRAM

**Monday 07/07 – 10:00am**  
**Raising of the Flags**

**Tuesday 08/07 – 10:00am**  
**Kids' Cultural Craft Day Rain Stick Making**

**Wednesday 09/07 – 10:00am**  
**Heritage Drive**

**Thursday 10/07 – 10:00am**  
**Tapping Sticks Workshop**

**Friday 11/07 – 06:00pm**  
**NAIDOC Community Dinner**



**THE NEXT  
GENERATION:  
STRENGTH,  
VISION &  
LEGACY**  
**6-13 JULY 2025**

# NAIDOC WEEK

## WEEK ACTIVITIES

### **Tuesday 08/07 - 10:00am - At The Gnowangerup CRC Kids' Cultural Craft Day Rain Stick Making**

A fun-filled day of creative expression with rain stick making, arts and crafts, and more! A light lunch will be prepared and served.

### **Wednesday 09/07 - 10:00am - Gather At The Gnowangerup CRC Heritage Drive**

Taking the children on a cultural journey around Gnowangerup, sharing stories of local heritage and history. The tour ends with a relaxed lunch at the Springs.

### **Thursday 10/07 - 10:00am - At The Gnowangerup CRC Tapping Sticks Workshop**

Another creative day for the kids, this time crafting traditional tapping sticks, followed by a shared lunch



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# NAIDOC WEEK COMMUNITY DINNER

Date: 11/07/2025

Time: 06:00pm

Location: Gnowangerup Sporting Complex

Dress Code: Formal preferred but come as  
you are

You're invited to a special evening honouring community, culture, and connection.

Throughout the night, dinner will be a formal three-course meal, lovingly catered by Margaret Farmer.

Guests will serve themselves buffet-style, and we'll be raising a glass of non-alcoholic champagne for toasts.

This alcohol-free evening will be themed in black and red, bringing everyone together in a warm, respectful celebration of our shared stories and strength.



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